Consulation Paper on Telecom Pricing, suggesting rebalancing of Telecom Tariffs—including ISD rates. The proposal of TRAI in this regard are summarised at Statement (*See* below). The (TRAI) is in the process of consulting service providers, consumer organisation and the general public for their views on the consulation paper.

Statement

ISD Charges:

Categories of countries	Existing Pulse Rate/Rate Per Minutes (Peak Time)		Proposed Pulse Rate/Rate Per Minutes (Peak time) by TRAI	
	(sec.)	(Rs.)	(sec.)	(Rs.)
SAARC Countries and other neighbouring Countries	2	(18.00 to 42.00)	4	19.50
Countries in Africa, Europe, *Gulf, Asia* and *Oceania*	1.2	(30.00 to 70.00)	2.6	30.00
Countries in the American Continent and other Places in West Hemisphere.	1	(36.00 to 84.00)	2	39.00

International Call Charges

1296. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International telephone calls from India are among the most expensive in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for such a high rate of charges as 6.35 US dollar for U.S.A. whereas it is only 5.10 US dollar from Japan, 3.00 US dollar from Australia, 2.64 US dollar from Hong Kong and 3.25 US dollar from Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) To the extent available, information relating to comparative internaional tariff structure in India vis-a-vis a few other countries, is given at Statement (*See* below). The fugures indicate that while the international calling rates from some countries to India are higher than those from India, in a few other cases it is the reverse.

(c) It is presumed that the rates mentioned in the question are the rates from India to the respective countries. The rate of 6.35 US$ for USA is the rate for operator assisted calls for 3 minutes. The present per minute peak ISD rates from India to USA is only Rs. 75.00 whereas this is Rs. 62.50 for Japan, Australia & Honk Kong and Rs. 37.50 for Sri Lanka.

Statement

The comparative tariff of India vis-a-vis of selected countries is as follows:

Telephone Collection Charges

Country	CUR	IDD Standard Charges in Exchange Per Minute To India	To India	From India	Rate on 3.12.98
		In Local Cur	In Indian Rs.	In Indian Rs.	Equivalent Rs.
UK(*)	PND	0.94	66.15	52.50	70.37
Germany(*)	DEM	3.12	79.00	65.50	25.43
Australia(*)	Australian Dollar	1.73	46.14	62.50	26.67
USA(*)	US $	2.66	112.57	75.00	42.80
Hongkong	Hongkong Dollar	12.00	66.36	62.50	5.53
Singapore	SG $	2.15	54.78	62.50	25.48
Japan (KDD)	Yen	45.00	67.10	62.50	0.35
Thailand	Baht	43.00	66.96	62.50	1.557
UAE	Dirham	6.43	74.00	62.50	11.55
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Rupees	55.00	34.53	37.50	1.59

(*)These countries have also got Promotional Rates for special seasons and special customer as marketing strategy.

Per Minute Charges		Promotional Rate		Called	Exchange
Country	Cur	To India	To IndiaAS		Rate on 3.12.98
		In Local Cur	In Indian Rs.		Equivalent Rs.
UK (*)	PND	0.557	39.20	Country Calling Plan	70.37
Australia (*)	Australian Dollar	1.00	26.67	Reward Rate 24 hrs. 7 Daya	26.67
USA (*)	US $	0.80	33.64	AT&T Asian Value Plan	42.30

Clearance of Revenue Sharing for Paging Operators

1297. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications had cleared revenue sharing for paging operators;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and